t30

17.05 hrs.

Title: Regarding Tehalka.com inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: I must mention here in the House that yesterday, during the discussion, the hon. Deputy-Speaker had said that a statement on the Tehelka.com inquiry would be made and hon. Members were agitating over that in the morning today. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say something on the issue.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, as you are aware and as the hon. House is aware, yesterday, the Law Minister had assured the hon. Deputy-Speaker that he would come to the House today and make a statement regarding the Tehelka.com inquiry.

Unfortunately, yesterday, during dinner at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, he suddenly fell ill. He has been hospitalised and is still in the hospital. Otherwise, he was to come here to make a statement and also pilot the Bill that was listed against his name--the Representation of People (Second Amendment) Bill. But as he suddenly fell ill, he could not come here.

Meanwhile, when this issue was raised in the afternoon, I contacted the law Minister. He apologised that despite his promise, his health was not permitting him to come to the House. I asked him what I should communicate to the House. He said that the Government's intention was to continue with the Tehelka.com inquiry. Unfortunately, the judge who was looking after this inquiry has resigned and the Government, in the next fortnight, would appoint a new judge who would continue the Tehelka.com inquiry.